

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled)

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An isolated *Escherichia coli* strain having its *dadA* gene mutated or deleted so that said gene does not encode a functional D-amino oxidase, wherein said strain has been transformed with and expresses a D-carbamoylase gene and a D-hydantoinase gene

~~The isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 22, which co-expresses carbamoylase and hydantoinase, and optionally, a hydantoin racemase and/or carbamoylamino acid racemase.~~

Claim 26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing a D-amino acid comprising:

culturing in a suitable medium the isolated *Escherichia coli* of claim 25, and recovering a D-amino acid.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-methionine.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-tryptophan.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-phenylalanine.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-aminobutyric acid.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 27, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-serine.

Claim 33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): An isolated *Escherichia coli* strain having its *dadA* gene mutated or deleted so that said gene does not express a functional D-amino acid oxidase; and having its *dsdA* gene mutated or deleted so that said gene does not express a functional D-serine dehydratase wherein said strain has been transformed with and expresses a D-carbamoylase gene and a D-hydantoinase gene.

Claims 35-38 (Cancelled)

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing a D-amino acid comprising: culturing in a suitable medium the isolated *Escherichia coli* strain of claim 34, and recovering a D-amino acid.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-serine.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-methionine.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-tryptophan.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-phenylalanine.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 39, wherein the D-amino acid that is recovered is D-aminobutyric acid.

Claim 45 (Cancelled)